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RECOMMENDATIONS ARE UNCERTAIN

Vast Difference Between Ability and Fitness.

COURT FAVORITES PROSPERED

Why the Attorneys at the Centre County Bar Recommended Judge Love--They Were Desirous of a Change--Politics in License Court Alleged.

The following article appeared in the last issue of the Keystone Gazette, September 15th:

Last week the Centre Democrat devoted nearly two columns to opinions of Philadelphia editors on the Centre county judicial contest--carefully avoiding dates so as to obscure the purpose for which they were written--for they were, written in 1899. It is passing strange that Mr. Kurtz should hunt for opinions so far distant when he could have referred to the files of his own paper and found innumerable expressions more patent to the pending issue, and which prove that even an editor, like the dog referred to in the Bible, will turn on his own vomit. To illustrate this point, we turn to the issue of the Centre Democrat of August 23, 1900, first page, fifth column, in which the following comment appeared, written by the editor himself:

By the death of Hon. Henry M. Green, last week, a vacancy was caused in the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. As this vacancy must be filled soon as possible, and as it occurred less than three months prior to the general election, it becomes the duty of Governor Stone to name the successor. This appointment will last until Jan. 1st, 1902, as it is an elective office, and at the election in Nov. 1901, the successor for the full term of 21 years will be chosen.

During the past week E. R. Chambers, Esq., who is one of Judge Love's staunchest friends went to work and prepared the following petition, which received general approval from the members of the local bar, to wit:

The HON. WM. A. STONE, Governor of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, Pa.

The petition of the undersigned, members of the Centre County Bar, respectfully represents: that the Hon. John A. Love, President Judge of the several courts of Centre County, has been on the bench for six years, during which time he has shown himself to be eminently fitted for the judicial office. He has made a most enviable record upon the bench; both astute and lawyers usually accept his rulings and decisions as final, because of their judicial fairness and wisdom, and of the forty cases appealed from his rulings, all but one have been affirmed by the Appellate Courts of Pennsylvania. Believing, as we do, in his ability, integrity and general legal knowledge, and especially in his mastery of the difficult and intricate questions involved in land and eminent domain law, we think he would be of great service to the State as member of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

We, therefore, respectfully petition that you appoint him to be a Justice of the Supreme Court to fill the place made vacant by the death of the late Hon. Henry Green. (Signed:)

E. R. Chambers, A. O. Frost, Calvin M. Bower, David F. Fortney, W. Harrison Walker, Wilbur F. Reeder, S. D. Geitler, Thos. J. Sexton, W. E. Gray, John Blanchard, Ellis L. Orris, Wm. C. Heinle, J. C. Meyer, H. H. Harsberger, W. F. Coblick, Edmund Blanchard, A. A. Dale, John M. Dale, H. S. Taylor, F. M. Keichline, Wm. J. Singer, N. B. Spangler, Geo. W. Zeigler, W. D. Crosby, G. H. Lichtenthaler.

The above petition was prepared and nearly all the names were attached to it before Judge Love was aware of its existence. It was a comment that he appreciates, and is an appointment that would be most gratifying to any member of the profession. Many similar petitions have been secured in adjoining counties where he has presided over their courts. These will be brought to Gov. Stone's attention immediately and there is much hope expressed as to the success of the effort.

Should this appointment be secured the Gov. would fill the local vacancy, also, by an appointment, and at the general election in November 1901 a president judge of our county would be chosen in the usual manner. There will be a strong move made in behalf of Judge Love for this advancement by our people, irrespective of politics. He has the ability to fill the position and the opportunity only is necessary to prove it. We hope he may receive the favorable consideration of Gov. Stone.

This article was written and published by the Centre Democrat long after some of the cases referred to in its last issue had been adjudicated. But when the editor of the Democrat wrote it he was enjoying one of his lucid moments and was not insane as a result of political prejudice. Now he has become seriously infatuated with an unholy ambition--the sin for which the angels were thrown over the battlements of heaven and fell to a low estate.

There is much truth in the above, but it must be carefully sifted to be comprehended. The entire effort is to evade the point--Judge Love's shortcomings. The Gazette would whitewash a political Judge with the alleged shortcomings of the writer and others. Such a defense won't satisfy thinking, intelligent people, and especially when a Court asks to be re-elected upon his record. The article merits some attention as it suggests a new line of thought.

Yes, in August 23, in the year of our Lord 1900, (as a news item) we did publish the above petition favoring Judge Love's promotion to the Supreme Court. We said then and reiterate it now that he has the ability--but no more. Even

two weeks ago September, 8, 1904, the Centre Democrat must have had another lucid moment when it said:

"In many ways we can commend Judge Love. He is an able attorney, a congenial, royal good fellow; a man of strong temperament which unfortunately has been his weakness and in so many instances has marred his judicial career."

But that does not imply that he has a monopoly in legal lore--there are some others. As stated, that petition was prepared and circulated by E. R. Chambers, Esq., and he is one of the attorneys whom we alluded to two weeks ago as a "court favorite," a sort of a subway to the Bench. In Love's campaigns Edward has always been the man "Friday." After John G. Love was promoted to the bench Edward R. Chambers was frequently credited with advertising the idea that he "stood in with the Court," had a "pull on Love."

By a sort of wireless telegraphy the liquor dealers of the county seemed to get this hint, for Chambers and one or two others strangely monopolized the liquor license applications over the county--some forty in number good for \$50 to \$100 each in attorney fees every year. It was a caution how the liquor license practice of these few attorneys grew out of all proportion to their other business.

Edward is no slouch and can read human nature too. He flaunted the hopeless visions of the Supreme Court before his master, to make himself "solid" in the future; and if his large list of liquor license applications this year means anything, it shows that Edward won out. In 1894 when Judge Furst held his last license court Chambers practically had no business there. In 1903 out of 43 applications Chambers had 18. Last February, out of 43 Chambers controlled 15--for years this court favorite controlled one-third of this liquor traffic. Did he boom Love in vain? Does it look that way?

Of course any attorney, who had any diplomacy or tact, would not be so foolish as to refuse to give his signature to this petition, when he continually was brought before this political Judge in the interest of his clients. The fact of the matter is the members of the Bar had other motives as well. They wanted to get rid of a political Court; and as his successor would then be taken from among them it meant one practitioner less.

One of the older members of the Bar said this petition to advance Love to the supreme court reminded him of a similar instance, viz:

Some years ago an ex-sheriff of this county by the name of Ward became annoying to the local politicians. Gov. Curtin heard that Col. Reed, of Erie, Pa., needed a landlord for his famous "Hotel Reed," the finest hostelry in that city. He at once strongly recommended Ex-Sheriff Ward for the place, whereupon Col. Reed engaged him.

About six months later a letter came back from Reed to Curtin, that his hotel was almost ruined; that Ward was no good; that he had engaged him solely upon the Governor's strong, personal testimonial, and wanted to know why Curtin had thus imposed upon him. To this Gov. Curtin replied: "If you are tired of your man, do as we did--RECOMMEND HIM ON."

The fact is, the attorneys at the Belleville Bar always knew Judge Love as a bitter partisan, and one who distributed business among his court favorites and political henchmen. We have heard this criticism, time and again, from the legal fraternity during the past ten years; and from ample personal observation during that time we believe it is only too true.

We are satisfied that not only the Centre County Bar but the public generally understand these things fully. They knew that Chambers was a recognized "Court favorite" and last Saturday the republicans "recommended him on." The handwriting is upon the wall; in November the people will likewise dispose of a political Judge. Truly, Justice Walker has said:

"A party and an electioneering Judge is the greatest curse that ever fell upon a free people. I pity such an unfortunate Judge."

A Mammoth Steer.

The largest steer in the United States, is the animal owned by Cornelius East, hope, of Allegheny, and was on its way to Allentown to be exhibited at the fair there. Its height is six feet and two inches, length of body, eight feet; from nose to end of tail twelve feet and ten inches; around loins, ten feet, two inches; around body at shoulders, nine feet two inches; weight, 4,160 pounds.

Jamison-Lingle.

A very pretty wedding was solemnized at the home of the groom's brother Rev. M. I. Jamison, Altoona, Pa., on Sept. 17, 1805. The contracting parties were Willard Jamison and Miss Minnie Lingle, of Spring Mills, Pa. Promptly at half past ten the ceremony was performed, and after partaking of a wedding dinner the happy couple left for points in the East.

SENATORIAL POLITICS.

During the past week the politicians of both parties in Centre, Clearfield and Clinton counties have been moving lively to nominate candidates to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator A. E. Patton. Time is short as the nomination papers must be filed by Tuesday, September 27th. We will take up the republican side first:

Down in Clinton they endorsed the candidacy of Col. E. A. Irwin, of Curwensville, without a contest.

Over in Clearfield there was a lively contest as Roland Swope, Esq., also sought the honor and was endorsed by the Republican State Committee. Returns of Saturday's primaries were slow coming in, but Irwin won over Swope by about 20 delegates which assures his nomination in the district.

In Centre county Col. E. R. Chambers and Henry C. Quigley entered the race. Both men sent out personal appeals to the party voters and each was busy. The primaries were held on Saturday and Quigley swept the county like a cyclone--Chambers receiving hardly more than a dozen delegates.

Among the democrats there was no contest up to this time. Clinton county instructed for our townsman, Wm. C. Heinle. On Tuesday our county convention on motion of Mr. Heinle selected three conferees, without instructions, which means that Mr. Heinle can have the nomination if he desires it. Clearfield has had no democratic candidate thus far but the names of Hon. James Kerr and Judge Krebs are being mentioned. They held their convention today and the district conference will likely be held at Bellefonte on Saturday.

From what we can understand of the situation, Hon. James Kerr, of Clearfield, will likely be nominated and that will mean his election.

SHOT WIFE AND SON.

Stephen Fellows, a miner employed by the Barnes-Tucker Coal company at Spangler, on morning of 15, shot his wife, son and dog. The wife, who is 35 years old, was shot in the face, and will die. The son, 17 years old, was also shot in the face. His injury, while serious, is not considered fatal. He has been removed to the Johnstown hospital.

The shooting occurred at the railroad ticket office at Barnesboro, Cambria county, that morning at 6:30, as Mrs. Fellows was purchasing tickets for herself and son for a point in Connecticut, whither she was going to visit a sister.

The boy, who was standing beside his mother when his father first fired, ran outside the station, followed by his pet dog. The father pursued the son, fired on him and then put a bullet through the head of the dog.

Bystanders overpowered Fellows and placed him under arrest, afterward taking him to the county jail at Ebensburg.

For some time the principals have had domestic disagreements, and about three weeks ago agreed to separate, both going before an alderman and signing a compact to that effect.

Fellows rued the bargain and has been urging his wife to return, but she refused. The pair owed some accounts for merchandise, and the storekeepers have been pressing Fellows, but he has insisted that under their agreement his wife should pay half. This she refused to do, deciding, instead, to go to her sister's.

When told of her plans Wednesday, Fellows remarked: "I'll stop them from going."

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

Tuesday morning the Democratic County Convention of Centre county was re-convened in the Court House, for the purpose of selecting three men to attend the Senatorial conference of the district. Considering the small amount of business at hand and the lack of interest, as there was no contest, the attendance was all that could be desired.

Col. J. L. Spangler presided, H. M. McManaway and W. G. Kelley as tellers were in their places while H. G. Jackson officiated as reading clerk. After reading the call, the chairman announced that the selection of conferees was in order. Ex-senator Wm. C. Heinle offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED: That James Schofield, M. I. Gardner and J. C. Meyer be elected the conferees from Centre county to nominate a candidate for the senate from the 34th district to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator A. E. Patton, and that they go to the conference uninstructed.

That completed the business portion of the session, and then addresses were made by Wm. C. Heinle, James A. Schofield, D. F. Fortney, T. C. Hipple of Lock Haven, J. C. Meyer, Capt. H. S. Taylor, and Col. J. L. Spangler. The latter gentleman aroused much enthusiasm by his stirring speech, in which he made a strong appeal for a clean judiciary in Centre county.

A BIG CONTRACT.

The Pittsburg Post of Wednesday says: "The Baltimore & Ohio has just awarded to Contractor T. A. Shoemaker the contract for building new piers for the Glennwood bridge across the Monongahela river at Wheeling Junction. This bridge will be entirely rebuilt, and is a portion of the improvement of the Wheeling & Pittsburg branch of the Pittsburg division. The old piers have been only 250 feet apart. The new ones will be 300 feet apart. The work will be under the direction of E. P. H. Harrison, who is associated with Mr. Shoemaker. The masonry and superstructure construction will be carried on while the trains are being operated over the old bridge as usual." Mr. Shoemaker just completed a large operation in Indiana county where he built about 21 miles of roadbed for the B. & P. R. R. and his workmen will go to Wheeling Junction.

St. Mary's Oil Field.

The St. Mary's oil field, which was heralded a few weeks ago with a great shout as a 20 barrel well district, has fallen down to about three barrel wells. This will not exactly break the back of the Standard Oil company, but it will be no bad thing for the people of St. Marys and Benzinger township, for the small wells are always the best to last, and these might hold out for 20 years to come.

A BIG GAIN.

The New York World shows that comparing the recent state election in Maine with the state election of four years ago, there was a democratic gain of 9390 and a republican gain of 1754. The republican plurality was reduced 76336. And that is what republicans now claim as a sweeping victory.

Charles L. Braucher, of Millimont, this season shipped four hundred and twenty-five bushels of plums from his orchard.

AN EXPLOSION IN AN OIL TANK

Hurt George Bailey to a Frightful Death.

THROWN 100 FEET IN THE AIR

The Mangled Body Falls Through a Skylight--A Native of Pine Grove Mills--Accident Happened at Altoona On Monday.

A horrible accident occurred at the Pennsylvania Railroad company's freight shop, in Altoona, shortly after 10 o'clock Saturday morning as the result of an explosion of an oil tank car which was being repaired. George Bailey, aged 36 years, was literally blown to pieces, while his fellow workmen made hair-breadth escapes from a similar fate.

Tank car was sent to the shops to have a safety valve riveted onto the dome, and it was while this work was being done that the accident occurred. Anticipating the work the dome cap had been removed to allow the gas that had accumulated in the tank to escape to render the work less hazardous and dangerous. The work was begun about 9 o'clock by George Bailey and his helper, A. A. Walker. Bailey crawled into the dome of the tank and seated himself on the rim made by the joining of the dome to the tank proper, while Walker worked from the outside. The valve was fitted on and the work of riveting it on was started. Gang foreman George Harpster was watching the work from the floor at the side of the car. Walker procured a hot rivet, inserted it in the flange of the valve and hammered it through until it protruded through to the interior of the dome.

The red hot rivet ignited the gas that had accumulated in the tank and almost instantly there was a terrific explosion that was heard all through the shop. Bailey was shot out of the dome like a bullet from a cannon and went high in the air over a 100 feet. A number of workmen saw the horrifying sight and turned away with a shudder. Bailey's body in falling plunged through a skylight in the freight shop, breaking a half dozen lights and tearing away a portion of the sash, and dropped in a mangled heap on the shop floor. His body was literally blown to pieces and bits of flesh were picked up and sent to the morgue to prepare for burial.

Walker made a narrow escape from injury, but beyond a few bruises was unhurt. Foreman Harpster was not hurt.

George Bailey was born at Pine Grove Mills, Centre county, May 31, 1868, and had resided in Altoona for the past nine years. He was married eight years ago to Miss Maggie Kline, at Oak Hall, Centre county, who survives, with two children, Edna and Eva; also by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Bailey, of Pine Grove Mills, and the following brothers and sisters: Calvin, of State College; Stewart, Paul, Nannie and Mary, all at home. Intermem took place at Oak Hall.

AFTER LIQUOR DEALERS.

We have the assurance that while Judge Love was on the Bench and engaged in the bitter political fight to inaugurate Gov. Hastings in July, 1899, that his "court favorites" went to many liquor dealers in the county, and told them to "give not less than \$10 at once and as much more as possible;" that the contributions would be brought to the attention of Judge Love and it would be gratifying to him, as the money was needed in order to keep down Hastings. We recently saw a liquor dealer's private ledger, and in his expense account the following item (paid in cash) appeared: --1899, JULY--FOR CAMPAIGN FUND \$10, and were informed that a Belleville republican attorney was around at that time who made the demand and collected the sum. The only campaign going then was the Love-Hastings fight. Could it have gone to the Democrats? Not likely; we were assured it did not. Was there any likelihood of a liquor dealer in Centre county advancing Gov. Hastings \$10 at that time? certainly not. Or did it come to the knowledge of Judge Love, through the famous subway? Who got it?

People who doubt these things should go to any landlord who was in business in Centre county in 1899 and had a liquor license. If he is in the same business yet he will hardly "squeal." Some did; others may.

After a hotel man pays an enormous price for his license and a big fee for his attorney he hates to have politicians hold him up in this fashion.

Hon. James Kerr, of Clearfield, sailed Tuesday afternoon on the fast German steamer Kron Prinz. He will visit London, Rotterdam and other places of interest.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright, Sparkling Paragraphs---Selected and Original.

An editor in Kankakee,
Once falling in a burning passion
With a vexatious rival, he
Wrote a letter in this fashion:
"You are an ass uncouth and rude,
And will be one eternally,"
Then in an absent minded mood,
He signed it, "Yours, fraternally."

Always on the go--Money.
Imagination is what keeps the doctor busy.
Some men die hard and others are dead easy.

The slangy girl speaks the English language.
Some people marry in haste and repent immediately.

It's hard to be "a good fellow" and a model husband too.

The berry season is over, but the undertakers are still busy.

The fellow who talks to you about yourself is never a bore.

The less a man has to say the greater is his reputation for wisdom.

Charity with some people consists largely of offering suggestions.

Washing clothes in stationary tubs won't prevent the colors from running.

This is a perfectly free country says an exchange. A Norristown judge has decided that a girl has a right to sit on her best young man's lap; a New York judge has given an opinion that a boy may enjoy the privilege of snoring in church; a York judge has affirmed that the father of a girl has a right to throw her young man out of doors if he hangs on later than 11 o'clock; it has just been judiciously determined that a man does not have to have his mother-in-law in the house.

A FAMOUS JUDGE.

In our last issue a quotation was made from an address by Hon. Jonathan H. Walker which attracted much attention, and since has been the topic of comment. Many persons have inquired as to who Jonathan H. Walker was and under what circumstances he made the remarks; others have questioned the source.

On page 58, John B. Linn's "History of Centre and Clinton counties" the following will be found:

Judge Walker having been appointed judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, took his leave of the people of the Fourth District in an elegant letter addressed to them from Bedford, dated July 24, 1818. He commences it with:

"The tie which has bound us together for upwards of twelve years is broken, but the more intimate tie of affection can never be dissolved.

After alluding to the kindness received, and some of the events of his earlier life, he states some maxims which he endeavored to conform to in his judicial career. One was "To avoid all appearance of evil." On this he remarks:

"For this reason it was my invariable practice to avoid all political association and meeting of every kind and nature. This maxim is considered as important for a judge as for a minister of the gospel. A PARTY AND ELECTIONEERING JUDGE IS THE GREATEST CURSE THAT EVER FELL UPON A FREE PEOPLE. Public satisfaction cannot be given, nor public confidence inspired. If he were as pure as the ermine of an apostle, his motives would be often suspected, his motives jealously watched, and his most virtuous intention constantly thwarted. I pity such an unfortunate judge."

Judge Walker was born near Hagesstown, Cumberland Co., and when quite a boy served in the army of the Revolution. He graduated at Carlisle, Sept. 26, 1787, in the class with David Watts, Esq., and Rev. John Bryson; studied law, married a daughter of Stephen Duncan, of Carlisle, and went to the town of Northumberland in September, 1791, and established himself in the practice of law. Here he celebrated son, Robert J. Walker (United States senator from Mississippi, 1836; Secretary of Treasury United States, 1845), was born July 19, 1801. In April, 1806, having been appointed judge of the Fourth District, Judge Walker removed to Bellefonte. After he had been here some years, Governor Snyder offered to transfer him to the Northumberland district, but he was so popular the people offered him every inducement to stay, the grand jury in a body asking him to decline Governor Snyder's proposition. Gen. Benner offering him the money to build any kind of house he liked, and a lot to build it upon. He accepted the general's offer, and built the stone building on Allegheny street (now Mrs. John B. Linn's, Gen. Benner's granddaughter), which he occupied until his removal to Bedford in 1814.

He was the first judge of the United States Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, which was created by act of Congress of April 20, 1818. He died on a visit to his son Duncan, at Natchez, Miss., in January, 1824. His daughter Martha was born in Bellefonte in 1807, and married Gen. William Cook, of New Jersey.